

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5303

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Early Learning & K-12 Education, February 3, 2015

Title: An act relating to creating the Washington academic, innovation, and mentoring program.

Brief Description: Creating the Washington academic, innovation, and mentoring (AIM) program.

Sponsors: Senators Litzow, Frockt, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe and Benton.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/27/15, 2/03/15 [DP-WM].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Litzow, Chair; Dammeier, Vice Chair; McAuliffe, Ranking Member; Billig, Fain, Hill, Mullet, Rivers and Rolfes.

Staff: Susan Mielke (786-7422)

Background: In 2014 the Legislature defined expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) as school-based programs or community-based programs provided in partnership with schools, that provide extended learning and enrichment for students beyond the traditional school day, week, or calendar. Additionally an ELO Council was established to provide guidance for a statewide ELO system.

The United States Internal Revenue Code exempts nonprofit organizations from some federal income taxes when the organization's purpose is charitable, religious, educational, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering amateur sports competition, or preventing cruelty to children or animals.

A congressional charter is a law passed by the United States Congress that states the mission, authority, and activities of a patriotic, charitable, historical, educational or other group. However, Congress does not oversee or supervise organizations with such a charter. There are over 90 organizations with a congressional charter including Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Club of America, Disabled American Veterans, Girls Scouts of the United States of America, Little League Baseball, the National

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Education Association of the United States, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Summary of Bill: The Washington academic innovation and mentoring (AIM) program is created to enable eligible entities to provide out-of-school programs for youth who are six to eighteen years of age. An eligible entity is a nonprofit corporation that has federal tax exempt status, is affiliated with a congressionally chartered organization, and meets other specified criteria, including provides after school and summer programs in a minimum of 50 communities statewide.

The out-of-school programs provided include educational services, mentoring and linkages to positive, prosocial leisure, and recreational activities. The programs must include at least two of the following activity areas:

- science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- homework support and high-yield learning opportunities; and
- career exploration.

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) administers the AIM program. No more than 4 percent of the funding provided may be used for administrative purposes. The goal is to provide the program in a minimum of 50 communities statewide. Sixty percent or more of the participants must qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch. Each entity funded must report to Commerce the number of youth served, the types of services provided, and the resulting outcomes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 26, 2015.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: Yes.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Expanded learning is an important strategy for improving the academic achievement of our students and closing the achievement gap. The Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and other community-based organizations have already established partnerships with schools in many counties of the state to provide after school and summer programs where students can learn and play in a safe environment. These programs are effective strategies for combating summer learning loss, which research shows is a big part of the achievement gap, especially for low-income youth whose family do not have the resources to provide access to summer academic learning programs. These programs to align with recommendations in the first report of the ELO Council issued this year. We do suggest that the outcomes of the programs that are to be measured should be defined so they can be comparable.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Litzow, prime sponsor; Mark Starnes, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound; Jerry Bender, Assn. of WA School Principals; Doug Hostetter, Director of Secondary Education, Tacoma Public Schools; Jack Archer, State Board of

Education; Matt Watrous, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of WA; Natasha Babayan, Boys & Girls Club.